

English Translation of the Friday Sermon of 8th December 2000 Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV

After reciting *Tahassud*, *Ta'kwin* and Sura *Al-Fatihah*, Huzoor recited Chapter 3 (Sura *Al-Imran*), Verse 93. The translation of this verse is:

"Never shall you attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love; and whatever you spend, Allah surely knows it well." (The Holy Quran, 3:93)

Hadhrat Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas (R.A.) said that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) said: "You will get the reward for whatever you spend in the way of Allah provided your sacrifice is for the sake of Allah and not for ostentation". Similarly the Promised Messiah (a.s.) has said: "I do not think that people who contribute towards these essential schemes will face financial difficulties; rather, these people will be blessed with more wealth. Therefore, one should trust fully in Allah and take part in these schemes with full vigor and enthusiasm because now is the time for offering sacrifices". Having recited a verse of the Holy Quran, narrated a Hadith of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) and quoted from the writings of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) on the topic of financial sacrifice, I now announce the start of the new year of *Tahrik-i-Jadid* ended on October 31 and the new year started on November 1, 2000. During the last year 17 countries took part in this scheme for the first time and, to date, a total of 110 countries are taking part in this financial Jihad. The total contribution is £1,974,600 (Pounds Sterling) and that is £200,000 more than last year.

When I announced the last year (1998-1999) of *Tahrik-i-Jadid*, I was certain that the total number of participants would be more than 300,000 during this year (1999-2000). The number of total

participants is more than 310,000 *Alhamdo Lillah*. This shows an increase of 43,000 participants and most of these are new converts. India heads the list with the greatest increase in number of participants, while, Kenya has secured this distinction from among the countries of Africa.

It is essential to mention Pakistan at this stage. Jama'ats in Pakistan have faced extremely adverse conditions yet still made tremendous progress. The Lahore Jamaat is particularly worthy of praise since this Jamaat has offered the greatest sacrifices and has attained the number one position out of Pakistan's three largest Jama'ats. Lahore is first, then Karachi, then Rabwah. I should mention, however, that Rabwah can still become number one because all those people who used to live in Rabwah and now live in the West still send money there. Were these people to reduce their contributions here and send more money instead to Rabwah, Rabwah could still maintain the number one position, *Insha Allah*.

I have already mentioned the sacrifices offered by the Lahore Jamaat. The traditional competition between America and Germany of outdoing one another is still alive. This year, by the Grace of Allah, America is number one in the world and has contributed £64,000 more than Germany. Now I announce the beginning of the new year of *Tahrik-i-Jadid*.

At this time I would like to present some general observations. I have come here today personally because Jamaat members have been worried about my long absence. For my part I have also been anxious to lead the Friday prayer and

offer advice to the Jamaat. My first advice is that we should not ignore even the smallest instruction given by the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) by saying that some directives are only applicable for the time when he was alive. I personally experienced this when I went to see Dr. Zahid Khan of Gillingham for dental treatment. My front teeth are strong and there are no artificial teeth in this part of my mouth. I have a problem, however, with my molars, the ones that are used for chewing. When Dr. Khan examined my teeth, he immediately said that the problem was only with my molars (back teeth) because I have a habit of chewing on hard bones. The roots of these teeth have separated due to extreme pressure. Immediately I remembered a saying of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) that says: "Do not chew bones, leave the bones for dogs". Until now I had considered this saying applicable only for that time. I used to think that nowadays dogs in rich countries get better food than human beings in poor countries; why, then, should humans leave bones for the dogs? When Dr. Khan mentioned the reason for my problem I realized that there is no saying of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) that can be considered to be just for that time. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has given much advice regarding the cleanliness of teeth. He advised us to do *Miswak* (brush our teeth) five times a day. Today's *Miswak* (brush) looks different, but the instruction is the same. He advised us to clean our teeth with an up and down motion. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has paid attention to even the smallest human needs and offered guidance for every little detail of our lives. He offered valuable advice for the protection of our back teeth, namely that one should not use too much force to chew bones. I suffered because of my habit and now I offer this suggestion to you: Do not ignore any exhortation of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.). His advice is eternal and will remain applicable until the Day of Judgement.

My doctors are most learned, *Masha Allah*. I do not know if they are present in this Friday service. They are very knowledgeable and fully understand my illness. There are some doctors who are very knowledgeable who may or may not be

leaders in their field. Regardless of whether or not they are experts in assessing my illness, they keep sending their suggestions on what I should and should not do. They do not realize that my doctors are extremely learned and the top specialists in their field. You all offer your advice out of your love and affection for me and I appreciate your concern. I am grateful to you for your suggestions but it is best that you do not send any suggestions at this time.

There is a lighter side to this situation as well. There are certain doctors that are called "Quacks" in English. They, too, have started to give a great deal of advice. The majority of these doctors are women. Every woman is sending a new prescription. They have no idea about my illness and what is the cause for it but they proceed to diagnose a disease, suggest a prescription and say "your doctors have not yet fathomed the true ailment." They say "this is the real treatment and will most definitely work."

First of all I should thank them from the bottom of my heart for all their efforts and sincerity, *Jazakumallah*. After all it is out of concern for my health that they all do this. I am truly indebted to them with all my heart. I do not wish to make fun of their efforts but in this regard I remember a joke that the late Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad Muzhar Sahib, ex-Ameer of Lyallpur (Faisalabad) was very fond of sharing. With your permission I, too, should like to tell that joke: "The late Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad Sahib used to say that a famous person of Delhi died. Reporters gathered outside his house and wanted to know how he died. Family members stated that in actual fact his illness remained a mystery to the end. Anyone who came to visit him used to diagnose a different disease and suggest a remedy accordingly." The truth is that the same situation applies to my illness. People do not know what my illness is nor are they even experts in this field, still they continue to offer their remedies. My desire is that members of the Jamaat now protect me from these so-called "friends".

Now I should like to say thank you to all those families who visit me. There are many families who

come to see me who profess that they have no concern for themselves or any member of their family; they are just devastated by my illness. I myself have seen tears in their eyes. There are also all those who may have seen tears in my eyes (*when they watch me on MTA*) though I am not in a position to see likewise in their eyes. Nevertheless, I am aware that there are great numbers of people in the Jamaat who weep and pray for me. I am indebted to all of these people and I know for a fact that it is because of their prayers that I am relatively better than before.

I want to mention something about my personal servant. He works like a devotee of the Jamaat. His name is Bashir Ahmad. I forgot to thank him before but now wish to do so. He works with me throughout the year and especially at the time of *Eid*. We have to organize and send around two thousand gifts here and sometimes more than that in Rabwah. I do not have any financial or other difficulty in getting these gifts together but it would be impossible to imagine that people should give me gifts and I should not return them. Allah has commanded in the Holy Quran that if someone gives you a gift you should return a better gift. That is why I request members not to bring any gifts when they come to visit me at *Eid*. They should come happily and see me, I enjoy their company and have a pleasant time. But please, do not bring gifts.

Now back to the story of Bashir Ahmad Sahib's. His maternal grandfather offered him to me as a gift. I want to apologize to my current doctor who is from Dera Ghazi Khan but I have to mention a certain custom from his area. When Bashir Ahmad was brought to me, he was wearing a huge turban (made with 7 yards of cloth) on his little head. He looked so ridiculous that I had a hard time controlling my laughter. He has served both the Jamaat and me and whatever thanks I offer him is not sufficient. Let me state categorically today that of all the gifts I have ever received, this is surely the very best. Members should remember to pray for all those sad eyes I have seen, as well as all those I can only imagine.

My doctors are *Masha Allah* very sensible and are experts in their fields. With them around, I do not need any additional opinion. Therefore, please stop sending your suggestions. There is, however, one thing they have not been able to understand about my illness, nor can they ever do so. They keep advising me to reduce my work load. They do not realize that the root of my illness is that I am not working at all. They under estimate the extent of the stress I have always borne. It is impossible for a person like me to stop working because by the Grace of Allah I have always worked very hard. Here are some examples of the schedule that I maintain.

I used to hold homeopathy classes. It was hard work and lots of people used to come and attend those classes and offer their valuable suggestions. This used to be a method of teaching as well as revising what was known. Then there was a class for the translation of the Holy Quran which was also extremely hard work. It was not only experts who attended this class but many men and women who offered excellent suggestions - especially Qanita Begum Sahiba, wife of Imam Sahib. She is perhaps a gold medalist in Arabic and used to come up with some profound interpretations. Similarly my daughter Faiza, *Masha Allah*, is very good at interpretations and understands the Holy Quran very well. Sometimes she, too, presented very deep meanings. I used to repeat all this work to master it. There were some specialists who used to visit me, namely, Aamir Sahib, Momin Sahib, Shams Sahib and my private secretary (it was imperative for him to participate). These four used to join me along with Qamar Sahib and spend hours in looking and understanding the meaning of each and every word. Those people who understand the Holy Quran should read my translation thoroughly. *Insha Allah* they will comprehend new explanations in this translation and also understand the need for this translation.

Then there was the Urdu class. I was also involved in writing various books and used to spend time with teams which were working on various translations. Each book used to have a team and I

used to work with them. One of these teams is responsible for helping in writing the commentary of the Bible. This commentary will be ready in a couple of years, *Insha Allah*. This is the first commentary that has been written in response to commentaries written by Christians and Jews. This commentary is written in the offence mode and not in defense. The offence is not in any bad sense and one hundred percent of the arguments have been taken from their own books (*Christians and Jews*). This team is also responsible for researching responses to objections of ignorant people and their baseless attacks on the Promised Messiah (a.s.). Navida Shah Sahiba is in charge of this team and her team was responsible for finding the most difficult references. Members should remember them in their prayers. I have not been able to conduct a *Dars-e-Quran* during the month of Ramadhan this year. I also used to spend a minimum of three months traveling to different countries. I used to take great pleasure in this work but no longer have the strength to do it all. My dear doctors advise me to stop doing all this work which I think is wrong and I cannot accept this advice. I would benefit from the continuation of the work. If the work does not proceed however, there is nothing I can do about it. There is all this work to do but there is no way I can start it all over again. Shall I write another book about homeopathy? All these activities are now not possible and this total lack of activity creates a void in my life. It is this same void that is my illness.

Let me also mention Dr. Imtiaz Sahib of America. He is translating my homeopathy book into English. There has been a great demand to have translations of this book in various languages because non-Urdu speakers feel they too should have the chance to benefit from homeopathy. Dr. Imtiaz Sahib has assumed the responsibility of translating this book and he is doing an excellent job. He is a doctor and knows medical terminology which makes his translation excellent. Remember him in your prayers too, and that Allah grant him strength to complete this translation in my lifetime, so that all mankind can benefit from homeopathy.

Now let me sum up why I think my illness is because of my reduced work load. My example is like a person who is managing a Persian Wheel (a wheel to draw water from a low level well). This wheel makes a noise but the person managing this wheel falls asleep while it is moving. As soon as this noise stops he wakes up. Similarly my illness is due to this lack of noise (work) in my life. If somehow, by the Grace of Allah, this wheel re-starts, then my illness will disappear.

I should also mention that even though I am delivering this Friday sermon, Imam Sahib will lead the prayer. My request to him is not to offer a long and involved supplication for me during the prayer, rather offer simple prayer (at this point Imam Sahib nodded his head in the affirmative and Huzoor smiled and said that Imam Sahib has agreed to my request). Members should not be surprised at this development. I do not know if members know this fact but some time ago I calculated that I have led more congregational prayers than all three of my predecessors. I know for a fact that sometimes it was difficult for me to even talk due to a cold or some other illness, but I still led the prayer. This is due to the fact that I had developed a habit from my childhood to offer prayer in congregation. Even with my increased responsibility I continued this practice. I also wish to follow one tradition of the Promised Messiah (a.s.). He was a Prophet of Allah and he offered his prayers behind a person who was not a prophet. This is also inferred from a Hadith of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) which states that "he will be led in prayers", that is, a non-prophet will lead a Prophet in prayer. You should have no problem in understanding this logic and let Imam Sahib lead the prayer. I am only a *Khalifa* and if a Prophet can offer prayer behind someone else then what hesitation should I have? I do not know when Allah will grant me health so that I may deliver the sermon as well as lead prayer. Members should pray that Allah grant me complete health and remove all traces of this illness.

I am having difficulty restoring my busy schedule but I am trying my best. I usually go for a walk, sometimes a very long walk. Allah has shown

me signs that he has forgiven me and I hope that this illness will disappear soon.

Let's talk about a small sign that Allah showed. This might be something small but it left a deep impression on me. A lady from Islamabad had a dream one night that she is presenting her child to me for prayers. I had not been to Islamabad (*for a long time*) before this and had no idea that I would go to Islamabad. The very next day I really did go to Islamabad. This lady was amazed to see me and cried out to me "I saw you in my dream last night. I was presenting my child to you and here you are." This might be a small thing but I think there are Allah's signs in these incidents.

Another thing which I would like to mention is that Allah shows signs and has taken care of my life Himself. Due to my illness I need to drink warm water frequently but as you can see there is no water here because this is the month of Ramadhan. My doctors have told me that there should be no problem in my observing the fast, especially when the days are so short. I remembered the Holy Prophet's (s.a.w.) saying that when Allah grants you leave then you should take advantage of it and

not try to please Him by force.

Let me tell you how I missed my first fast. I am by nature a light sleeper and have been waking early in any case due to my toothache. I had asked Saifi, who has been serving me with deep devotion, to wake me before *Sehri* time so that I could offer *Tahajjud* prayer and then observe the fast. When I woke it was *Fajr* time. I asked Saifi why he did not wake me and he said "I made noises outside your door, knocked on the door and even called you on the phone but did not get any response." Shauqi advised Saifi to actually go inside the room to wake me but he refused, saying it was inappropriate to do so and he had made enough noise to even wake people on the lower level. All this noise had no effect on me and my eyes opened at exactly *Fajr* time. I want to assure you that Allah Almighty is with me. He shows me seemingly small signs which are actually very significant for my own peace of mind and are a source of great blessing. I do not know when He will grant me complete health and I will be able to lead prayer. Until that time I will follow the tradition of the Promised Messiah (a.s.) and offer prayer behind one of my followers.